

# Knox County Schools

# Benchmarks

Noteworthy News about KCS

December 2012



State of the Schools, January 17, 2013  
Powell High School

Mark your calendar:  
The second annual "State of the Schools" address will be January 17, 2013 at Powell High School starting at 6:00 p.m.

- State of the Schools Address, January 17, 2013
- APEX Reward Schools announced
- BMS students experience hands-on math fair
- Business, community leaders are "Principal for a Day"
- Cedar Bluff Middle is 'Medal of Honor' School
- How inclement weather decisions are made
- Magnet Showcase, Open house schedule
- Coupon Book campaign report
- KCS Band members honored

Cedar Bluff Middle Medal of Honor

Coupon Book Report



**Online Transfer Application**

The online transfer application is limited to transfers from within the Knox County School District for current Knox County students. If you live or attend school outside of Knox County you will need to fill out a paper (PDF) form. (NOTE: AT THIS TIME ONLY MAGNET TRANSFER APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE. THE GENERAL TRANSFER WINDOW BE OPEN FROM 2/4/13 TIL 2/18/13)

**ONLINE TRANSFER**

## Superintendent to Deliver Second Annual “State of the Schools” Address



Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, will deliver his second annual “State of the Schools Report and Address” on Thursday, January 17 at 6 p.m. at Powell High School (2136 West Emory Road). The event is open to the public.

The State of the Schools Report and Address will provide an overview of academic progress in the Knox County Schools toward the goals outlined in its district-wide Strategic Plan. The Knox County Board of Education approved the plan, entitled *Excellence for All Children*, in 2009. The report will also highlight the additional work necessary to provide our students with an excellent education in today’s increasingly competitive global environment. In addition, the event will provide attendees with information on how to best support public education in Knox County.

The State of the Schools Address will be broadcast live on Comcast Cable Channel 10, AT&T U-Verse Channel 99, and streamed live at [www.knoxschools.org](http://www.knoxschools.org). The public can also listen live on WKCS-Radio 91.1 FM.

**Dr. Jim McIntyre**  
Superintendent

Powell High  
School, 2136 West  
Emory Road



## Magnet School Open House and Showcase Calendar of Events

The annual "Magnet Showcase" will be held at the Knoxville Museum of Art on Tuesday, December 4 from 4:30 – 7 p.m. Each magnet school will have information available about the school's program, eligibility and more.

Following the Magnet Showcase, open house dates have been scheduled for each Knox County magnet school. Teachers, administrators, and magnet staff will be available to provide tours and answer any questions about specific programs available at each school. Open house dates are as follows:



Video: A-E students get new iPads



### Elementary Schools

- **Beaumont Fine Arts & Honors Magnet Academy**  
Open house: December 6 from 5-7 p.m. and January 17, 2013 from 5-7 p.m.  
Exhibit night showcases: December 13, March 14, and May 16 from 5-7 p.m.
- **Green Math & Science Magnet Academy**  
Magnet showcase: December 13, 2012 and May 7, 2013 from 5-7 p.m.
- **Sarah Moore Greene Technology Magnet Academy**  
Open house: Tuesday, December 11 from 8:30-11 a.m., Wednesday, December 12 from noon-2 p.m., and Thursday, December 13 from 4-6 p.m.

### Middle Schools

- **Vine Middle Performing Arts Magnet School**  
Magnet tours: Daily upon appointment from 3:15-4 p.m.  
Magnet open house: December 11, 2012 from 6-8 p.m.  
Kwanza showcase from 7-8:30 p.m.  
Magnet information session and half time performance at the following basketball games: January 10, January 14, January 24  
Magnet open house: February 12 from 6-8 p.m.

### High Schools

- **Austin-East Magnet High School**  
Open house: December 6, 2012 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Fulton High School, School of Communications**  
Open house: December 11, 2012 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **L&N STEM Academy**  
Magnet showcase and open house: December 10, 2012 from 5:30-8 p.m.  
Magnet showcase and open house: February 4, 2013 from 5:30-8 p.m.

The recent regional expansion of the L&N STEM Academy will allow for thirty new freshmen transfer slots during the 2013-2014 school year. When fully enrolled, there will be 120 slots for students across the STEMspark East Tennessee region to transfer to L&N STEM Academy.

- **West High School (International Baccalaureate Program)**  
IB information session and tour: December 13, 2012 at 2 p.m. The magnet transfer window is open now through February 18, 2012. For more information, please contact the Magnet Office at (865) 594-1731.



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**ONLINE TRANSFER**



## Eleven schools rewarded as “APEX Award Schools”

Eleven Knox County Schools were recently rewarded as “APEX Award Schools.” [APEX \(Advance • Perform • EXcel\)](#) is the strategic compensation system that recognizes and rewards successful achievement in outcomes. It is a part of the school district’s five-year strategic plan, entitled Excellence for All Children.

To achieve this honor, the schools have earned high performing results that are based on impressive TVAAS growth and making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which is now measured as Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) since Tennessee received a waiver from the No Child Left Behind Act. The criteria for an APEX Award School includes making at least 50 percent of a school’s AMOs both for achievement and gap closure, as well as strong TVAAS growth. The following schools have rewarded as Apex Award Schools:

### Tier 1 - Exemplary Performance receiving \$10,000

Carter Elementary School  
Carter High School  
South-Doyle Middle School  
Pleasant Ridge Elementary School

### Tier 2 - Model Performance receiving \$5,000

A.L. Lotts Elementary School  
Cedar Bluff Elementary School  
Chilhowee Elementary School  
Farragut High School  
Farragut Middle School  
Halls High School  
West Valley Middle School

*A look at two winners:*

### **Pleasant Ridge Elementary**

The Pleasant Ridge staff spent a lot of time looking at student data beyond what the district provided. Professional Learning Communities (PLC) focused on targeting specific goals for each student. The teachers embedded daily assessment checks into each days activities to student understanding of the day’s instruction. The next day’s lesson plans were then based on the results.

“Our teachers cannot create lesson plans a week ahead,” said Principal Jessica Birdsong. “They create tomorrow’s plans based on today’s performance. The teachers spend a lot of time authenticating assessment. Much of the assessment is not necessarily formal tests, but observed responses to material.”

The focus on high quality instruction reaffirms best practices that teachers are already using. “It is a fabulously hard-working staff committed 100% to making sure each child grows,” said Birdsong.



*Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent, endorses the APEX Reward Check for South-Doyle Middle School Principal Beth Blevins.*



*Pleasant Ridge Principal Jessica Birdsong accepts the award check from Superintendent McIntyre.*



Pleasant Ridge has seen a 20% increase in reading and math in each of the last two years. There are 30 classroom teachers and four assistants. The focus this year is on lower performing subgroups such as minority and special needs students while maintaining the high quality instruction for all students.

Pleasant Ridge plans to use some of the money to provide transportation for students whose parents cannot let them remain after school for additional help. One of the programs is after school care called PREPARE - which means Pleasant Ridge Enrichment Program to Accelerate and Reinforce Effort.

## Chilhowee Intermediate



*Robyn Ellis*

Chilhowee Principal Robyn Ellis' staff saw math scores increase from 53.1% to 61.5% last year after instructional time was increased from 60 minutes to 85 minutes per day. Teachers also have set higher expectations for students. Third grade students' scores increased from 50% to 63.4%.

"There are no interruptions to classes during the day," said Ellis. "Following morning announcements, teachers begin teaching at 7:50 a.m. and continue teaching all day without interruptions for assemblies, announcements, and other activities that might distract from the teacher-learning relationship."

Each day's math lesson begins with a review of what was learned the previous day and continues to build from there. Ms. Ellis spends much of her day visiting among the classrooms to see just how students are doing. This support of the classroom teacher demonstrates to the students that there are people other than their teacher who is interested in how they are doing in school.

"Our teachers work extremely hard," she said, "and the students understand the high expectations teachers have for each student. I am very proud of them all."

The APEX Reward School funds will be evenly divided among grade level and special area teachers and will be used to purchase materials for the classroom.

## Medal of Honor Curriculum flies high at Cedar Bluff Middle School

As a symbol of courage and selfless service, the Medal of Honor (MOH) flag now proudly soars above Cedar Bluff Middle School each day. The flag was presented to the school at a Veteran's Day Assembly on Tuesday, November 13 where Medal of Honor Recipient Colonel Bruce Crandall was the guest speaker. Cedar Bluff is the first in the nation to fly the Medal of Honor flag which is an honor made possible by the collaboration between the [Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation Character Development Program](#) and Cedar Bluff Middle School social studies teachers, Tim Smith and Amy Melendy.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and is generally presented by the President of the United States in the name of Congress. The Medal of Honor Foundation began working with educators over two years ago to create lessons based on the ideals exemplified by the Medal of Honor. Lessons focus on real life application of the Six Pillars of Character which are courage, commitment, integrity, citizenship, sacrifice, and patriotism.

After learning more about the program last spring, Smith and Melendy were inspired by the program's desire to incorporate these character principles while using methodologies that meet several curriculum standards in reading, language, and social studies. In August, Cedar Bluff Middle School teachers worked together to implement the character development program into the curriculum. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade watched a video vignette of Medal of Honor recipient Private First Class (PFC) Sammy Davis then using the character traits answered the question, "What makes a true hero?" In addition, reading teachers taught a lesson on sequencing using written text about PFC Davis.



Cedar Bluff Middle School Principal Christine Oehler, Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Bruce Crandall, and Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre.



KCS-TV Video



Representatives from the MOH Character Development Program were impressed with execution of the lessons into almost all subject areas. As a result, they plan to use Smith and Melendy's work as a model for other schools across the nation and awarded Cedar Bluff Middle School with the MOH flag in appreciation.

"I am very hopeful that this program will be instrumental in changing the climate of our school for the better," Smith said. "Students are showing a great excitement about learning more about the MOH recipients." Smith believes these men serve as the ultimate role model and hearing them tell their story with real emotion and honesty leaves a lasting impression with students. The most memorable part of this journey for Smith and Melendy was meeting Col. Crandall and exposing the students to a real hero.



Medal of Honor Flag flies above Old Glory at CBMS

Educators working together to build a quality learning experience that supports both core curriculum goals and character development for students is an outstanding example of the [Knox County School's Strategic Plan](#) in action.

## Bearden Middle School Students Bring Math to Life

Each year, many students can struggle with the challenge of understanding math word problems. Troy McCord, a sixth grade math teacher at Bearden Middle School, realized far too many of his students were having difficulty visualizing the real world situations being presented in word problems. Students were achieving mastery of the skills taught in class, but were unable to translate word problems with the same success. A recent unit test that focused heavily on word problems confirmed improvement was needed. McCord enlisted the help of fellow math teacher, Lauren Waldron, and consulted with Instructional Math Coach, Jill Keith. Together, they created a plan to provide real world experience through tactile discovery in hopes it may improve their ability to solve similar problems.

Using the tennis courts and surrounding area, McCord and Waldron built a Math Fair. Students worked their way through stations where they were guided through activities designed to help them achieve results first hand and transfer experiences into the mathematical process.

Having one-on-one support for the 200 students taught by McCord and Waldron was crucial to the success of the Math Fair. They enlisted the help of Bearden Middle School PTA President Virginia Babb to organize parent volunteers, who were given a detailed script to learn. This would not only help parents become the teachers but also demonstrate how necessary hands-on learning is, regardless of grade or age level.

Students were divided into pairs and given two word problems for each station when they arrived at the Math Fair. One problem involved cutting ribbon into specific lengths to see how many bows could be made from the ribbon.

Students saw how human error could slightly alter the mathematical answer. Another problem placed students in the role of an athlete, making multiple runs to collect and record data, then manipulating facts to find the correct answer. After completing each station, students participated in a reflection of the events. When McCord asked, "What did you learn," one student explained that, "being able to visualize the problem and have it in front of them made it much easier to solve."

A reassessment of the unit test was also given and the results were very promising. When asked how the Math Fair will influence his teaching, McCord replied, "Watching the kids do the math during the fair reminded me of how important it is to recreate as many situations as I can. It makes a difference."

"It just solidifies the fact that as teachers, we need to work harder to accommodate different styles of learning," Waldron said. "Switching up classroom instruction styles can be a huge factor in helping a student grasp a mathematical concept."

Another event is already being planned for the spring semester.



*Bearden Middle School students Jack Watt, Anthony Simon, Joey Miller and Johnny Jordan turned word problems into hands-on experiences during a recent Math Fair. The tactile learning helped students more easily understand the problems and discover the solutions.*



## Principal For a Day 2012 is a Success in Knox County Schools

On November 15, approximately 75 community leaders had the opportunity to spend a half-day as a "Principal For a Day" (PFAD) at one of 88 schools across Knox County. Guests were able to meet school administrators, visit classrooms, interact with support staff, and experience the life of a school from inside the school walls.

This initiative, as outlined in the Knox County School's Strategic Plan - *Excellence for All Children*, brings together a broad range of government, community and business leaders to participate in a unique experience with a school principal.

The visiting PFAD's concluded their duties over lunch at Central High School where they discussed their experience and provided feedback to Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools.

### Here are some the experiences they shared:

"What I've seen today at L&N STEM Academy transcends what I've seen in Knox County Schools over the last 30 years in this community," - Doug White with Lexus & Toyota of Knoxville.



*Mayor Burchett and Dr. McIntyre stop by a reading group at Ball Camp Elementary*



*KCS-TV Spotlight Video*



"Students were heavily engaged in the process. There's a tremendous sense of collaboration, which will help grow them as professionals in our community's business world," said Mark Littleton, with Aisin Automotive Casting TN, who visited Farragut High School..

"I watched second graders at Gibbs Elementary School do math problems and Field with Knoxville Chamber of Commerce.

"I saw German being taught to them from Hardin Valley Academy through a distance learning class. It was so interactive. To hear of this is one thing, but to see it was truly mind boggling," said Russell Byrd with Comcast who visited Carter High School.

"You could feel the professionalism and the business of educating children going on. If this is the future in our schools, we're in good hands," said Sheryl Rollins, NAACP President, who visited Sarah Moore Greene Technology Magnet Academy.

**Principal For a Day participants included:**

A. L. Lotts, Christy Moreno, WBIR  
Adrian Burnette, Jake Mabe, Shopper News  
Ball Camp ES, Tim Burchett, Knox County  
Mayor  
Bearden ES, Tracy Morrow, Junior League  
of Knoxville  
Bearden HS, Alan Hill, AT&T  
Bearden HS, Heath Lowe, Walgreens  
Bearden MS, Jennifer Evans, Knoxville  
Chamber of Commerce  
Beaumont Fine Arts & Honors Magnet  
Academy, Tim Adams, Wesley House  
Beaumont Fine Arts & Honors Magnet  
Academy, Lisa Hurst, Boys & Girls Club  
Blue Grass ES, Sandy Monasmith,  
Walgreens  
Bonny Kate ES, Mike Brown, Knox County  
Commissioner  
Brickey-McCloud ES, Becky Dodson,  
Tennova North Medical Center  
Byington-Solway, Les Fout, Pellissippi State  
Foundation  
Carter ES, Allison Swank, Knoxville Zoo  
Carter HS, Russell Byrd, Comcast  
Carter HS, Chuck Yates, Walgreens  
Cedar Bluff ES, Tim Hemans, School  
Specialty  
Cedar Bluff MS, Bryan Pate, Walgreens  
Central HS, Lisa Boyer, Walgreens  
Central HS, Jim Branham, Virginia College  
Christenberry ES, Grant Standefer,  
Compassion Coalition  
Copper Ridge ES, Kim Sepesi, BOE Member  
Dogwood ES, Ken Knight, Crowne Plaza  
Farragut HS, Mark Littleton, Aisin  
Automotive Casting TN  
Farragut HS, Ryan Haynes, TN House of  
Representatives  
Farragut IS, Merrit Garner, Walgreens  
Farragut MS, Ralph McGill, Town of  
Farragut Mayor  
Farragut Primary, Diane Jablonski , Knox  
County PTA  
Fountain City ES, John Fugate , Commercial  
Bank  
Ft. Sanders Development Center, Darren  
Amador, Walgreens  
Fulton HS, Anthony Ingram, Great Smoky  
Mountain Boy Scouts Fulton HS, Jeff Lee,  
WBIR  
Fulton HS, Hubert Smith, WUTK Radio  
Gibbs ES, Mark Field, Knoxville Chamber  
Halls MS , Bill Dunn, TN House of  
Representatives  
Halls MS, Selena Jackson, Walgreens  
Hardin Valley ES, Brad Anders , County  
Commissioner  
Hardin Valley Academy, Wilson Ipaye,

Walgreens  
Hardin Valley Academy, Anthony Wise ,  
Pellissippi State Holston MS, Jed Dance,  
Bacon & Company  
Karns ES, Rhoni Standefer, Joni & Friends  
Karns ES, Rob Webb, Rural Metro  
Karns HS, Sherry Morgan, KCEA  
Karns HS, Jeff Smitts, Walgreens  
L&N STEM Academy, Joe Walsh, City Parks  
and Rec  
L&N STEM Academy, Doug White, Lexus &  
Toyota of Knoxville  
Lonsdale ES, Autumn Cypres, UT Center for  
Educational Leadership  
Mt. Olive ES, Cory White , Walgreens  
Northwest MS, Mike Parker, Walgreens  
Norwood ES, Mike Goin, Walgreens  
Norwood ES, Bob Kronick, University of  
Tennessee  
Pond Gap ES, Tony Monasmith , Walgreens  
Powell ES, Kevin Slimp, Kidsville  
Powell HS, Tom Householder, Home Depot  
Powell HS, R. Larry Smith, County  
Commissioner  
Powell HS, Rich Ray, 21st Mortgage  
Powell MS, Chad Campbell, Rusty Wallace  
Honda  
Powell MS , Jessica Weber, Walgreens  
Ritta ES, Lydia McCoy, Knoxville News  
Sentinel  
Rocky Hill ES, Eddie Mannis, City of  
Knoxville  
Sarah Moore Greene Technology Magnet  
Academy, Buzz Thomas, Great Schools  
Partnership  
Sarah Moore Greene Technology Magnet  
Academy, Sheryl Rollins, NAACP President  
Sarah Moore Greene Technology Magnet  
Academy, Markus Jackson, Boys & Girls  
Club  
Sequoyah ES, Joan Markel, McClung  
Museum  
South-Doyle MS, Steve Hunley, Knoxville  
Focus  
South-Doyle MS, Herc Ligdis, Capital Bank  
South-Doyle HS, Curtis Lundy , Walgreens  
Sterchi ES , Kristina Howard, Knoxville  
TVA Employees Credit Union  
West Hills ES , Jennifer Smith, Walgreens  
West HS, Joey DeLoach, Trane  
West HS, Mike Hammond, Knox County  
Commissioner  
West Valley MS, Doug Hamburger,  
Walgreens  
West Valley MS, Robert Hewgley, West  
Bearden Basketball  
Whittle Springs MS, Chris Cook, Walgreens

**KCS Kudos:**

**Drummer selected for U.S. Army All-American Marching Band, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**

Daniel Del Moro, Halls High School band student, was selected to be a member of the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. Del Moro, a senior, is the first student from the Knox County Schools to achieve this honor.

Dr. Jim McIntyre, Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, and representatives from the U.S. Army All-American Bowl participated in a ceremony to highlight Del Moro's achievement.

The U.S. Army All-American Marching Band recognizes the top 125 high school senior marching musicians and color guard members from across the country, showcasing their talents during the largest celebration of high school football in America, the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, televised live on NBC at 1 p.m. EST on Saturday, January 5, 2013 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

For more information:



*Daniel Del Moro, Halls High School Band member, selected for Army All-American Marching Band.*



[www.usarmyallamericanbowl.com](http://www.usarmyallamericanbowl.com) .

**Carter drummers in Macy's Parade**

Additional kudos to Carter High School drummers Andrew Chunn and Ben McCurry, who recently marched in the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.



## KCS Celebrates Successful 2012 Coupon Campaign

The Knox County Schools held a celebration and appreciation luncheon on Wednesday, November 7 to announce the to-date sales totals, recognize top-selling schools and students, corporate sponsors and coordinators for a successful 2012 campaign for “The Original Knox County Schools Coupon Books.”



Representatives from the coupon book’s seven corporate sponsors – U.S. Cellular, Rusty Wallace Honda, Rusty Wallace Kia, Junk Bee Gone, Stanley Steemer Carpet Cleaners, First Tennessee Bank and Comcast – attended the celebration, which was held at the Sarah Simpson Professional Development and Technology Center.

“The Original Knox County Schools Coupon Books” provide funds to meet school needs identified by parents, teachers and school administrators. Students sold 153,642 coupon books this year which represented a profit of \$1,355,122.44. Since 1989, over 3 million

coupon books have been sold to raise more than \$27 million for Knox County students. Those who wish can still purchase the coupon books at several businesses throughout Knox County. ([Purchase Books at these locations](#))



“The program was established in 1989 as a way to provide discretionary funds for schools to use to meet needs identified by parents and teachers,” said Scott Bacon, the Knox County Schools supervisor of business partner ships. “Since its

inception the coupon book program has been widely embraced by middle and elementary schools and the funds generated have become a primary resource for improving technology and playgrounds in schools across the county. Parent and community support have made the Knox County Schools Coupon Book program the most successful program of



*Elementary school top sellers*



*Middle school top sellers*



*KCS-TV Video*

its kind in the nation.”

The coupon books cost \$10.00 with \$7.90 going to the school where the book is sold. Schools with a high number of economically disadvantaged students share \$.72 from the sale of each book. ebook subscriptions for all Knox County Schools’ libraries is funded by \$.13 of the proceeds and another \$.07 funds the “Schooled for Success” program, an eighth grade career awareness initiative in each Knox County middle school. The cost of printing is \$.63 per book. Only \$.55 of the book’s cost goes to cover administrative and student incentive cost.

## KCS Inclement Weather Procedure

Winter months mean cold weather...and sometimes snow. Before making the decision to delay or close school due to inclement weather, Superintendent Jim McIntyre relies on critical input from a variety of departments and entities both within the Knox County Schools and from outside agencies. Dr. McIntyre confers with the transportation, security, maintenance, curriculum and instruction, and others before rendering a decision. Various city and county government agencies are also consulted, including law enforcement and engineering and public works. The National Weather Service is also contacted in order to obtain accurate information about approaching weather patterns and fronts.

When the Superintendent renders a decision regarding school delays or closures, the Public Affairs Department disseminates the news through automated phone messages to staff and parents, a posting to the district website, and informing local news media.

To receive the latest information on school delays and closures due to inclement weather, look for information delivered to you through SchoolMessenger, visit [www.knoxschools.org](http://www.knoxschools.org), and/or tune into your local media outlets.

For more information, please consult the Knox County Schools [Emergency Closings Policy](#).



## **Other Important Dates to Remember:**

December 3: Board of Education Work Session Meeting, 5 p.m.

December 4: Magnet Showcase at the Knoxville Museum of Art, 4:30-7 p.m.

December 13: Community Forum at Brickey-McCloud Elementary School, 6-8 p.m.

December 5: Board of Education Regular Session Meeting, 5 p.m.

December 21: End of second 9-weeks grading period

December 21: Half Day for Knox County Schools' Students

December 24 – January 4: Winter Break (All Schools are Closed)